

where she received her MFA in 1975. She also studied Communications at the Pennsylvania State University's College of Communications.

During her 16 years at Dillard University, Mrs. Rochon chaired the Department of Mass Communications. She later held a faculty appointment at the College of Communications at Purdue University. Mrs. Rochon was also an Emmy Award winning television news producer. She produced an array of television shows, which included, *Fast Track*, *Fast Track Te Informa*, *Primetime* and the New England Regional Emmy Award winning "Best Target Audience Series" *Urban Update* and *Black News*.

Mrs. Rochon is survived by her husband, Gilbert Rochon III, PhD, MPH; their daughter, Hildred Sarah Rochon, MD, MPH, MBA; their son, Emile Saul Rochon, MD; daughter-in-law, Jalelah Sophia Ahmed, MIA; son-in-law, Lillard Royal Lewis, Jr., MBA; grandson's Jayden Royal Lewis and Jameson Ramon Lewis; sisters, Anna Lois Saul Harrison and Margaret Ethel Saul Bordenave; brother, Herman James Saul, Jr.; brothers-in-law, Richard David Harrison; RADM Stephen Wayne Rochon, (RET.), Gregory Paul Rochon, Brandon Pierre Rochon; sisters-in-law, Sheryl Saul, Shirley Rochon and Janet Oliver Rochon; cousins Dr. Claudia Phillips Joplin, Dr. Michele Louise Phillips Pointer, Myra E. Phillips, JD and a host of beloved nephews, nieces and cousins!

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herman James Saul, Sr. and Louise Phillips Saul; Aunts, Magnettie Saul Perrault, Beulah Saul, Malcolm Saul, Florence Saul, Edith Saul; Uncles, Wallace Saul, Godfrey Saul, Dr. George Martin Phillips, Aunt Wimberly Ruth Phillips; Cousins George Martin Phillips Jr., Dr. Deborah Phillips Theado; sisters-in-law, Alexis Rochon, Dr. Melanie Rochon Bush; brothers-in-law Christopher Joseph Bordenave, III, Evan Ashley Rochon; grandmothers; Sarah Anna Merritt, Claudia Ethel Gates Phillips Tunnage and Marguerite Toye Saul; grandfathers, Joseph Saul and Thomas Phillips.

Patricia will forever be remembered as a devoted and loving wife and mother; a strong champion for the societal benefits of higher education; an advocate who served to advance the opportunities of students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and a fighter who believed in equitable health care access and equal opportunities for ethnic minorities and women. May she rest in peace and may God's perpetual light shine upon her.

**HONORING THE WORK OF
AMBASSADOR JAVLON VAKHABOV**

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of Mr. Javlon Vakhabov, who is retiring from his role as Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the United States, Canada, and Brazil. Javlon was born August 7, 1980, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, which was at the time the capital of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic.

In 2001, Javlon earned his bachelor's degree in International Law from the University

of World Economy and Diplomacy. Subsequently, he graduated in 2003 from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy with his master's degree in International Law.

Javlon joined the Uzbek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001, serving early career assignments as an attaché, 3rd secretary, and chief of division. In 2006, President Islam Karimov appointed Javlon to the Uzbek National Security Council, serving as leading consultant and as head consultant until 2011, when he was promoted to deputy secretary of the Council. For most of 2013, Javlon served as director of the Institute for Strategic and Inter-Regional Research, a government-funded think tank in Tashkent. In November of 2013, Javlon became one of the leadership team at the Foreign Ministry, as one of four deputy ministers of foreign affairs. On July 29, 2015, he was promoted to first deputy minister of foreign affairs, the title he held when he was appointed ambassador to the United States.

He has served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United States of America since late 2017. Since late 2018, he has served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uzbekistan to Canada with residence in Washington, D.C.

I thank him for his leadership and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING MARCH 27TH TO
MARCH 31ST AS NATIONAL AREA
HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS
(AHEC) WEEK**

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize March 27th to March 31st as National Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Week.

The AHEC program was originally authorized in 1971 to enhance the workforce of health professionals who staff brick-and-mortar Community Health Centers. Today, Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) offer hands-on and innovative health career curricula for pre-college level students, and are committed to continuing education, clinical training of health professionals and responding to community health needs. The nation's 300 AHECs are in nearly every state and in multiple U.S. territories. Administered by the HRSA, AHECs are federally funded, and many are also supported by state governments, foundations, or other partners.

AHEC clinical training placements put health professional students in a variety of real-world settings, such as migrant, urban, and rural community health clinics and health departments that provide healthcare to rural and underserved populations. Connecting students to community populations helps facilitate future engagement and help build network alliances for health career students who wish to remain in their clinical practice regions and continue providing more sustainable healthcare in rural and underserved areas following their training.

AHECs are also responsive to community priorities. They are dedicated to collaboratively developing community health education curricula, for both online and face-to-face train-

ing programs, through unique partnerships that meet the broader range of public health needs of diverse and severely rural and underserved populations.

The need to strengthen the healthcare workforce, particularly for underserved communities, has become far more acute over the past several years. According to new Association of American Medical Colleges, the U.S. could see a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034, and the American Hospital Association says more than 200,000 new registered nurses are needed each year to meet increasing health care needs and to replace nurses entering retirement. AHECs continue to be committed to addressing shortage areas and expanding the healthcare workforce, while maximizing diversity and facilitating distribution, especially in rural and underserved communities.

In the past 5 years, the AHEC program has trained 2 million healthcare professionals, who are prepared to deliver culturally appropriate, high-quality, team-based care, with an emphasis on primary care for rural and underserved populations.

I have developed a close relationship with and am proud to support the Nevada AHEC program. I have previously led efforts to increase funding for the national AHEC program in recent fiscal years. As highlighted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevada's health workforce needs to be prepared to meet their communities' needs now more than ever. The Nevada AHEC program is one way we will be able to continue to make a significant and sustainable impact in improving healthcare services for the rural and most underserved areas of our state. By having programs that are responsive to local and community needs, and by connecting health students and professionals early on in their careers to the most vulnerable communities, the Nevada AHEC program continues to create a culturally and structurally competent health workforce to tackle the unique challenges our state faces.

On behalf of my constituents, the Nevada AHEC program and the national AHEC program more broadly, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing March 27th to March 31st as National AHEC Week.

**PATHWAY LA'S 45TH
ANNIVERSARY**

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2023

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Pathways LA on 45 years of service to the district.

Pathways LA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to strengthen low-income and vulnerable working families, promote high quality early care and education services for children of all abilities, develop knowledgeable early care providers and promote economically resilient communities. Since its founding Pathways LA has been committed to the healthy development and school readiness of young children from disadvantaged communities.

With a staff of more than 60 individuals who reflect the linguistic and cultural composition of the families they serve, Pathways LA assists thousands of families and children every year,